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55 1943	Palestine EASTERN	E3992 / G 2
E 3992 8 1 31 / G New York 996 Dated 29 March	Iraq Petroleum Company's <u>pipeline negotiations</u>	
Last Paper E3788 References E33-1/8/5 68618	Minister Copy Co. (Mr Gutch) Mr J.F. & P. (Mr M-Davis) & remount with pp. JB Mar .31	
Mr Gutch Mr Gutch April 3.	See E 4315 News Dept. shd see with pp. JB Apr. 7 JB Apr. 20	

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CR

Ref: 1/1/1943

E3992/91

AW 3
E

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

17120/73/4c

Code

10. PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent on April, 1943 10.3.43

URGENT
No. 1138

Referred to High Commissioner, Palestine,
referred to P.M. Administration, New York,
REF: No. 100.

Telegram No. 026 from U.S. Legation, New York,
received at York on Feb. 25.

Re: Palestine Group of Pipeline Operations.

In view of number of reports on the subject
appearing in the newspapers at 5.45 on 24.2.43 and
other press reports it is as possible

to have a copy of the report on the subject
sent to the High Commissioner, Palestine, New York,
on 24.2.43 and to the P.M. Administration, New York,
on 25.2.43.

Order sent.

Foreign Office
Colonial Office

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FO	371/68618

E 4
50 MAR 1948

[This telegram is of particular secrecy and should be retained by the authorised recipient and not passed on]

CYPHER/OTP

WORLD ORGANISATION DISTRIBUTION

FROM NEW YORK TO FOREIGN OFFICE

(From United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations)

No. 996.

D: 2.45 p.m. 29th March, 1948.

29th March, 1948.

R: 9.35 p.m. 29th March, 1948.

Repeated to: Jerusalem,
Washington Saving.

IMMEDIATE

SECRET

GIANT

Addressed Foreign Office telegram No. 996 of 29th March repeated to Jerusalem and Colonial Office and Saving to Washington.

Your telegram No. 1,214.

Iraq Petroleum Company's pipeline negotiations.

Decision to complete negotiations has been conveyed to Commission who have replied making the following points:-

(a) Commission note with interest that first annual payment of pounds Palestinian 45,000 will represent an immediate addition to the assets of the Government of Palestine.

(b) Commission note that his Majesty's Government appreciates that having regard to the terms of paragraph 3(d) of Chapter 3 of declaration B of Part I of Assembly's plan, continued validity of these arrangements is not (repeat not) assured but point out that paragraph 2 of Section B of Chapter 3 of Assembly's plan should have been observed and that this matter should have been discussed with Commission before a decision was taken.

2. In view of the foregoing, Commission reserve their position both as to the procedure employed in reaching this decision and with regard to any action they may consider necessary with respect to this concession after the termination of the mandate.

Please pass Immediate to Jerusalem and Colonial Office as my telegrams Nos. 250 and Brief 36 respectively.

[Copies sent to Telegram Section Colonial Office for repetition to Jerusalem].

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group F.O.
Class 371
Piece 68618

Following document(s)*

~~retained in the Department of origin*~~
transferred to PRO Safe Room*

E: 3994/8/31
E: 4103/ "
E: 4318/ "
E: 4531/ "

and closed until 1999

*delete as necessary

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131

E

E 4199

5

1948

PALESTINE

3 APR 1948

Palestinian Flag used for Merchant Shipping.

Registry Number } E4199/8/31

FROM Colonial Office
Communicated No. 76462/48

Dated
Received in Registry } 31st March
3rd April

Copy of letter from Mr. Higham to the Admiralty dated 31st March, enclosing copy of savingram from the High Commissioner No. 124 dated 16th February on the subject of the Flag used by Merchant Shipping under Palestine Law. This is the red ensign defaced with a white ball bearing the word "Palestine". Mr. Creech Jones takes the view that it is undesirable that a defaced British ensign should continue to be employed after the termination of the Mandate. Asks views also of the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Transport.

Last Paper

4105

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Appl. of ...

(Action completed) (Index)

W. ...

Next Paper

(W3115/3115/58)

(Minutes)

I agree with Mr Higham that course (a) is the proper one. Q4 - so inform Co. General Dept - first
J. ...
Apr. 3

D. ...

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its merchant vessels since "a vessel not sailing under the maritime flag of a state enjoys no protection whatever" (Oppenheim, Vol. I, p. 546). This does not, however, appear to me to constitute a sufficient, good reason for allowing Polish merchant vessels to continue to enter a defined sea area after the termination of the blockade.

Toyo and Galtier
(GUTTERIDGE)
8/4

We can now inform Co.
At an early date
18/4

Let P. H. ...
JB Apr. 13

See ...
C.O. ed. ...
JB May 5

See ...
JB May 10

See ...
General Dept.
of May 11
JB May 14
JB May 16

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

See within: 6
Compel telegram 271110 - 27/5
JB May 31

Compel tel. 271905 - 27/5.
JB June 2

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76462/1

Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith St.,
W.S.I.

76462/1

7 March, 1948.

4199

3 APR 1948

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Creech Jones to transmit a copy of a telegram to you from the Colonial Office on the subject of the use of merchant shipping under Palestine law.

It is unlikely that the United Kingdom will be able to assist on this matter, and the matter will have to be dealt with in accordance with the law of the State concerned.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

Secretary of State for the Colonies

Enclosed for you are two copies of a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 27th February 1948, and a copy of a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 27th February 1948.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
FO 371/68618

employed and, subject to the views of the Foreign Office and the Ministry of Transport to which this letter is being copied, said that course (a) above will be the more expedient. It would, however, be no objection to a final decision being deferred for a month, in case the case still appeared to involve a question of the present law or that it would be desirable to refer the matter to the Law Commission in the near future. It is noted that the Commission is currently working on this subject.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

FO

371/68618

COPY

9

8. Clear.

C/SHIP/12/47

SAVING.

From the High Commissioner for Palestine.

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date 16th February 1948.

No. 124. SAVING.

Palestinian flag used by merchant shipping.

Six ocean going ships registered in Palestine are at present sailing the seas wearing the red ensign defaced with a white ball in the flag bearing the word "Palestine". This flag was authorized by the British Admiralty.

On termination of the mandate the wearing of this flag which, although defaced by the word "Palestine" is essentially a British flag, would appear to be inappropriate. Presumably, the ships would continue to be registered under the Palestine law until that law is superseded by other laws made after the establishment of the new State. During the interim period, however, the ships registered under the Palestine law must fly some flag.

The Government of Palestine

High Commissioner for Palestine

It is noted by the Admiralty that a report has been received by the High Commissioner of the Admiralty regarding the use of the red ensign defaced on the ships of the Palestine Government in the Mediterranean Sea. It is noted that the Admiralty is in receipt of a report from the High Commissioner of Palestine.

The Admiralty is of the opinion that this report should be reviewed with a view to the issue of a notice to the High Commissioner, the British Admiralty, with effect from the date of the receipt of the report, that the use of the red ensign defaced on the ships of the Palestine Government is not permitted.

The Admiralty is of the opinion that the High Commissioner should be advised that the use of the red ensign defaced on the ships of the Palestine Government is not permitted and that the High Commissioner should be advised that the use of the red ensign defaced on the ships of the Palestine Government is not permitted.

The Admiralty is of the opinion that the High Commissioner should be advised that the use of the red ensign defaced on the ships of the Palestine Government is not permitted and that the High Commissioner should be advised that the use of the red ensign defaced on the ships of the Palestine Government is not permitted.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
FO 371/68618

Registry
No. E419/8/31

~~Top Secret~~
~~Secret~~
~~Confidential~~
~~Restricted~~
Open

JGSB

Draft

J.D. Higham, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

13 April, 1948.

My dear John,

Please refer to your official letter
761.62/48 of March 31st to the Admiralty
about the flag used by merchant shipping
under Palestinian law.

Of the two possible ~~clauses~~ ^{courses} set out in
para. (2) of your letter we consider that
(a) is the proper one. We do not think
that (b) could be justified since it would
involve Palestinian merchant vessels con-

tinuing after the termination of the Mandate
to use a flag authorised by the British Ad-
miralty, and only so authorised
because of the Mandate.

J.B. April
[Signature]

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
FO 371/68618

199/831
DISTRICT D.

19th April, 1948.

My dear John,

I would refer to your official letter of the 7th of April, 1948, in which you refer to the liability lost the film used by me in the film under the title 'The ...'.

I would also refer to your letter of the 11th of April, 1948, in which you refer to the liability lost the film used by me in the film under the title 'The ...'.

I would refer to your letter of the 11th of April, 1948, in which you refer to the liability lost the film used by me in the film under the title 'The ...'.

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Copy for Under Secretary of State, F.O.

E 12

Telegrams: (Shipping) "SHIPMINDER, TELEF. LONDON."
(Inland Transport) "TRANSMINY, TELEF. LONDON."
Teletype: ABBEY 2711 EXT.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT,
BERKELEY SQUARE HOUSE,
LONDON, W.1.

Any other communication should be
addressed to—
THE SECRETARY.
(address as opposite)
and the following reference quoted—
FSR 6596



8th April, 1948.

Your Reference

Sir,

I am directed by the Minister of Transport to refer to your letter, 76462/48, of 31st March, addressed to the Admiralty, and in reply to state that the Minister is of the opinion that the flying of the defaced Red Ensign after the termination of the Mandate should NOT be allowed.

He, therefore, recommends that the warrant should be revoked with effect from the termination of the Mandate in May.

Copies of this letter are being sent to the Admiralty and the Foreign Office.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Signatures

(Major General R.C. Honey)

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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371/68618

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OUTWARD TELEGRAM



FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

13

7662/48

En Clair

4199 8 31 INDEXED

TO MALDEN (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 1st May 1948 10.00 AM

To:

Your telegram No. 24, dated 29.4.48

advising that you are to be promoted to the rank of Major-General on 1st May 1948.

It is a pleasure to hear that you are to be promoted to the rank of Major-General.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary of State for the Colonies

Foreign Office

Whitehall, London, W.C.2

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SECRET

IN

16

WARNING : This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

(*NOTE : Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad :
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

271110D/May

4199 8 31.

From: COMPAL

Date: 27.5.48

Rec'd: 0935

EXED

SECRETEX

To: Admiralty

Info: C.in C. Med.

MOST IMMEDIATE

Following for Gutch Colonial Office from Pollock begins:

Question of flags being used by Ships of Palestine Registration has arisen in acute form. Palestine Ships are still using Red Ensigns defaced with Palestine on White Circle. A ship wearing this flag is expected at Tel Aviv shortly and may be object of hostile air or sea attack. Presume ships wearing this flag in these circumstances not (?now) entitled to protection by Royal Navy. Presume suggest immediate steps be taken for cancellation of Admiralty warrant authorising use of this flag by ships of Palestine Registration ends.

2. Admiralty is requested to pass to Colonial Office.

271110D.

Advance copies sent D.C.) 1050/27
M.Br.)

Passing action being taken by War Registry.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(3)
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.
- U.S.S.
- O.D.(8)
- D.C.(2)
- M.(25)
- Secretary
- D.N.I.(5)
- D.of P.(2)
- D.of P.(2)
- C.N.I.(2)

VAC17

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E

18

1948

E 4207

PALESTINE

5 APR 1948

Registry Number E 297/8/31

TELEGRAM FROM J.M. Troutbeck B.M.E.O. Cairo

Dated 107 Received in Registry 2nd April 3rd

Purchase of Sarafand Camp by Musa Bey Alami.

Refers Damascus telegram No, 159 dated 25th March (E3899/8/31) Telegram has been received from Musa Alami asking advice and help in his efforts to negotiate the purchase of Sarafand site by his land development scheme. Recommends that favourable consideration be given to his request. A rival company has been formed in Egypt under the auspices of the Arab League, Musa's scheme is considered to be the better by B.M.E.O. Asks whether Bagdad may inform him that his telegram has been received and submitted to Foreign Office.

Last Paper.

4199

References

8 Higham. B. File W.O. Khanlar W.O. Newling M. Defence Couchbank M. Supply Sleeman Cap. B. April 6.

Next Paper

4256

Minutes

The Arab Office in London has approached us with the same request, which I passed on to the C.O. The W.O. have also been approached.

I suggest we say yes to para. 5.

M. Beith

15/

Please see also E 115/8/31 and the telegrams attached to it, in particular Telegram No. 891 from the High Commissioner in Palestine. Both the Government of Palestine and the Ministry of Defence are now much more clearly aware of the political implications of this matter than they were when it was first raised some weeks ago. The conclusion reached by the High Commissioner is one with which we would agree and which should go far, if carried into practice, to silence any Arab criticism.

A comprehensive plan for bulk disposal will have to be submitted to ministers in the near future and it is not, I understand, proposed that the question of Sarafand should be treated separately.

There may be some complications about the Arab body to which Sarafand should be sold. The High Commissioner has referred the Arab Higher Committee to the disposal authorities and they are no doubt the most suitable purchaser. It is not clear, however, to what extent the scheme described in this telegram has been co-ordinated with the Arab Higher Committee.

J.G.S. Beith

(J.G.S. Beith)

6th April, 1948.

LI

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I agree that the High Commission
conclusion about Sanford is the
right one.

8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
April 13.

We can, I think, act on with
regard to para 5 of the 11. within as
suggested by Mr. Beving.

L.P.L. Pymon
7/4

We should surely also put
Musa into touch with the disposal
Ctee?

P.L. draft,

Mr. Beving

BARB
7-6

Draft submitted

J.S. Beving
Apr. 8

Handwritten signature

L.P.L. Pymon
9/4

BARB
9-6

Mr. P. Boydad Lt 413 16/4

JB Apr. 21

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM BRITISH MIDDLE EAST OFFICE CAIRO

TO FOREIGN OFFICE

4207

No. 107.

D: 7.58.p.m. April 2nd, 1948.

April 2nd, 1948.

R: 10.25.p.m. April 2nd, 1948

Repeated to Jerusalem,
Bagdad,
Damascus,
Beirut,
Amman,
Jedda,
United Kingdom Delegation, New York.

IMPORTANT.

SECRET.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 107 April 2nd; repeated for information to Jerusalem, Bagdad, Damascus, Beirut, Amman, Jedda and United Kingdom Delegation, New York.

Sale of Sarafand Camp.

Following from Clayton.

Damascus telegram No. 159 to you.

I have received a telegram from Musa Alami asking for my advice and help in his efforts to negotiate the purchase of Sarafand site by his land development scheme. He points out that his land development society is strictly non profit making and he feels that preference should be given to it rather than to commercial applicants. The Society would use the land and installations for improvement of living conditions of urban and rural Arab population.

2. Musa Alami scheme, with details of which Palestine administration are acquainted, is based on sound and progressive lines and in principle subject to the views of Government of Palestine. I would recommend favourable consideration being given to his request.

3. But his scheme is not the only one in the field, a rival company having been formed in Egypt under the auspices of the Arab League. Musa Alami scheme I consider better, but by plumping for it we might run the risk of taking sides in internal Arab disputes.

4. It seems to me he should be told that his offer must be considered on level terms with any similar Arab offer, though I venture to suggest that preference might be given to genuine schemes for the amelioration of Arab masses as opposed to purely commercial speculation.

5. May Bagdad inform him that his telegram has been received and his request submitted to you for consideration?
Foreign Office please pass to U.K. Del New York as my telegram No.15]
[Repeated to U.K. Del. New York]. [Copy sent to H.E. Secretariat].

---CCO---



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Registry
No. BL207/8/31

20

TELEGRAM
CONFIDENTIAL
JGSE

CYPHER

Despatched 11:40 A.M.

Draft.
B.M.E.O., Cairo.

IMPORTANT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Telegram.
No.
(Date)

Addressed to B.M.E.O., telegram No. 282
of 9th April, repeated for information to Jeru-
salem, Bagdad, Damascus, Beirut, Amman, Jedda, and
U.K. Del. (New York).

Copies.
Higham, Colonial
Office,
Rife, War Office,
Charteris, War
Office,
Newling, Defence
Cruikshank, supply

Your telegram No. 107 [of April 2nd: sale
of SARAFAND] CLAYTON. N.P.
Following for question of disposal
of fixed assets in Palestine (including SARAFAND)
will shortly be submitted to Ministers. Accord-

Repeat to:
Jerusalem,
Bagdad, 320
Damascus,
Beirut,
Amman,
Jedda,
U.K. Delegation
(New York)

Ex. Clair.
Code.
Cypher.

Distribution :-
Departmental

H.S. Reint
Apr. 8
L.H. Pagan

Copies to :-

ing to latest reports from Jerusalem, Arab offer
of 865,00 Palestine pounds is at present the
best available but it is not clear who the
bidder is. *It has not already done so* get into
touch with the Disposals Mission in Palestine and
we should certainly wish any offer of his to be
considered on an equal footing with other Arab
offers.

2. I am repeating this telegram to H.H. Ambas-
sador at Bagdad and shall be grateful if he will
inform Musa Alami ~~in the sense~~
of the previous sentence.

JAS
104

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3178E Wt. 26469 137 50m 9.46 .51 F.K.S.

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En Clair

FILES

FROM BAGDAD TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Sir H. Mack. D. 8.45.a.m. April 17th, 1948.
No. 413.
April 16th, 1948. R. 11.5.a.m. April 17th, 1948.

Repeated to B.M.S.C. Cairo.
Jerusalem.

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 413 of
April 16th, repeated for information to B.M.S.C.
Cairo, and Jerusalem.

Your telegram 282 to B.M.S.C. paragraph 2.

Action taken as instructed.

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66 7 3	Palestine EASTERN	E4256 / G 23
E 4256 / 8 / 31/2 F.O. Minute Mr. B.A.B. Burrows. March 30th Recd. April 5th.	Directive to G.O.C. British Troops in Palestine	
Last Paper E4168	(Minutes) ?	
References P.3/55/5/10	JB Apr. 7	
(Print)		
(How disposed of)		
(Action completed) <i>[Signature]</i>	(Index) <i>[Signature]</i>	
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E-4269
5 APR 1948

2 SA 9/4

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CWF17 B691 DMAS
CWF17 B691 DAMAS 352 4 1655 =
LC SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LONDON =
ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE STRONGLY PROTESTS AGAINST THE OFFERS
FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION OF LANDS ORIGINALLY ACQUIRED
OR EXPROPRIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PALESTINE FROM ARAB
OWNERS FOR USE BY BRITISH WAR

AND AIR MINISTRIES AS CAMPS DEPOTS OR AIRFIELDS STOP
SUCH LANDS WHICH IN MOST CASES SERVED THE AGRICULTURAL NEEDS
OF THEIR OWNERS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN EXPROPRIATED FOR USE
OF BRITISH FORCES IN PALESTINE EXCEPT BY REASON OF
SPECIAL POSITION OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT AS MANDATORY AND
TRUSTEE IN PALESTINE AS

NO FOREIGN MILITARY FORCE COULD HAVE COMPULSORILY
ACQUIRED ANY LANDS IN PALESTINE STOP NOW THAT BRITISH
FORCES ARE ON POINT OF WITHDRAWING AND OBJECTS FOR
WHICH EXPROPRIATIONS WERE MADE HAVE CEASED TO OPERATE
IT IS A MATTER OF ELEMENTARY JUSTICE AND FAIR DEALING
THAT SUCH LANDS BE RETURNED TO THEIR

FORMER OWNERS AND THAT NOT ONLY ON THE STRENGTH OF
RIGHT OF PROMPTION OF THE OWNERS RECOGNISED AND RESERVED
BY THE LEGISLATION IN FORCE AT THE TIME OF EXPROPRIATION
BUT FURTHER ON GROUND THAT ORIGINAL EXPROPRIATION WAS
MADE POSSIBLE ONLY BY VIRTUE OF THE SPECIAL FINANCIAL

~~POSITION~~ POSITION OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT

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26
BY MILITARY FORCES STOP INSITENCE OF BRITISH FORCES ON
PAYMENT OF ANY AMOUNT IN EXCESS OF ORIGINAL
COMPENSATION PAID TO OWNERS WOULD BE AN ABUSE OF POWERS
UNDER WHICH AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH LANDS WERE
ACQUIRED STOP SAID LANDS WERE NOT ACQUIRED FOR SPECULATION
OR INVESTMENT AND ANY DEALING

WHEREBY BRITISH MILITARY FORCES WOULD BE MAKING PROFIT
THEREFROM WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE SPECIAL POSITION OF
THE MANDATORY OR THE TRADITIONS OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT STOP
ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE THEREFORE REQUEST AS ~~MATE~~ MATTER OF
URGENCY IMMEDIATE CESSATION AND CANCELLATION OF ALL
PROCEEDING FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION AND RESTORATION OF

SUCH LANDS TO THEIR FORMER OWNERS ON LINES
MENTIONED FOR ARAB HIGHER COMMITTEE *

R TAMIMI *****//

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R TAMIMI *****

SENT 2254/4/JA +

ACK AND RIP+

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1948

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E 4145 ²⁷

PALESTINE

2 APR 1948

Registry Number E4145/8/31

FROM
C. A. F. Dundas
DAMASCUS
No. 47

Dated 27th March
Received in Registry 2nd April

Sale of Sarafand Camp.

Refers Damascus telegram No, 159 (E3899/8/31) dated 25th March, Now encloses copies of two memorandum communicated by Azzam Pasha on the subject of the sale of Sarafand Camp, referred to in telegram under reference.

Last Paper
4119

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

86.0 n/p
2/11/5

(Action completed) (Index)

StM 5/4 25/1/49

Next Paper
E4167

(Minutes.)

Copy to office
JB Apr. 2nd

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No. 47.
(25/95/48).

4145

British Legation,
Damascus.
27th March, 1948.

Sir,

2 APR 1948

With reference to my telegram No. 159 of 25th March concerning the Sale of Sarafand Camp, I have the honour to enclose one copy and copies in translation of the memorandum with enclosure on this subject which I received from the Secretary-General of the Arab League. I have acknowledged receipt of this memorandum to Azzam Pasha.

The member of my staff to whom a similar verbal representation was made by the Director-General of the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs took the opportunity of pointing out that a decision in this case as to the rights of former owners of expropriated land to have first claim to the re-purchase of land now being sold by His Majesty's Government might well be regarded as a test case liable to set a precedent.

I am sending copies of this despatch with translation enclosures only to His Majesty's Representatives at Amman, Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Jedda, to the British Middle East Office, the U.K. Delegation of the United Nations and to His Excellency the High Commissioner for Palestine.

I have the honour to be
With the highest respect
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,

C. A. F. Dundas

(C. A. F. DUNDAS)
For H. H. Minister.

The Right Honourable Ernest Bevin, M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.,
Foreign Office, S. 7.1.

28
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COPY.

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The Military Authorities in Palestine announced some two weeks ago, their intention of selling the building of Sarafand Camp, including the site, by sealed tenders; It has been learned that the final date for accepting tenders is Thursday the 25th of the current month.

1. The Sarafand Camp is the main camp for the British Forces in Palestine. It is located along the Jaffa-Jerusalem road, between Jaffa and El-Ramleh and in the neighbourhood of Lydda Station, the Central Station of the Railway Lines, and it overlooks the main roads of communications between the East and West, North and South.
2. The Camp is erected on a site the area of which amounts to about 3700 dunams, or 370 Hectares, all of which had been taken from Arabs in accordance with the Expropriation Law. This Law had provided, at the time of expropriation, that preference for purchase should be given to the original proprietors when the land was no longer required. This Law was abrogated in 1943. The abrogation of this Law ought not to affect the right of the original proprietors to take it back and to be given preference over others when the site is sold.
3. The Camp is located in Area "A" wherein land is not permitted to be sold except to an Arab of Palestine, in accordance with the Lands Law. Should the owner of land be a non-Palestinian Arab the High Commissioner would then have the right to authorise its sale to a non-Palestinian Arab. In this case the owner is a Foreigner, namely the British Army. Consequently, it cannot be sold to the Jews except by the use of the special authority of the High Commissioner.
4. This Camp is located in an Arab region and this increases the Arabs' right to its purchase.
5. The sale of this Camp to Jews means that the British Military Authorities are transferring the ownership of Arab lands to Jews.
6. The purchase by Jews of this Camp will lead to the throttle of extensive Arab areas, in particular the City of Jaffa, because it will give Jews domination over the roads connecting this City with other Arab areas, and will also lead to the throttling of all the Arab areas round Jaffa comprising El-Ramleh and Lydda and their villages.
7. The choice of this site by the British Army since the occupation period for the erection of their principal Camp and the large sums of money spent on its extensive constructions, point to the importance of the strategic value which this Camp has. It may be said in general that he who dominates Sarafand dominates the roads of communication of the country.
8. The Camp is now in fact a completely equipped City. Should the Jews succeed in purchasing it they would bring their illegal immigrants, who are now in Cyprus, to live in it. During the War this Camp was able to accommodate 60,000 soldiers.
9. The Arabs are prepared to purchase this Camp. They however object to the very short time given. The sale and liquidation of a Camp like this in this very short period of time is an unreasonable undertaking.
10. The Arabs object likewise to the method of sale by tenders as this will enable the Jews to share the chance of purchasing it and will even give them a greater chance because of their well-known resources, whereas the Arabs believe that they have the sole right to purchase it.

He request:

1. The postponement of the sale and the fixing of another and adequate period of time.
2. The sale to be restricted to the Arabs alone.
3. The change of method of sale from "tenders" to "private agreement" with the Arab Organisations, who are the sole legal purchasers and who are prepared to pay a reasonable price.

Damascus.

24th March, 1948.

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دمشق ٢٤ مارس

مذكرة

السفيرة المفوضة البريطانية بدمشق

يقدم الامين العام لجامعة الدول العربية خالص تحياته الى حضرة صاحب السعادة وزير بريطانيا الفوقر بدمشق ويشرف بان يبعث اليه بمذكرة من معسكر صرفند التابع للجيش البريطاني بفلسطين المعروض للبيع والمحدد يوم ٢٥ مارس الجاري آخر موعد لقبول العطاءات الخاصة به .

وان الامين العام لجامعة الدول العربية يعتقد ان بيع هذا المعسكر بطريق العطاءات المفتوحة يجعل عرب فلسطين في مركز اقل من غيرهم وقد يفتوت عليهم فرصة شرائه ما يزيد في حالة الاضطراب السائدة الآن في فلسطين وهو يرجو من سعادة الوزير الفوقر ان يتفضل ببذل حسن وساطته لدى السلطات البريطانية المختصة حتى توصل التاريخ المحدد لبيع هذا المعسكر وان تقصر الدخول في مزايده يبعده على عرب فلسطين استنادا الى الحجج القانونية المدونة في المذكرة المرافقة والمقدمة اليه من عرب فلسطين .

ويشتمل الامين العام لجامعة الدول العربية هذه الفرصة لعرب لسعادة الوزير الفوقر من خالص شكره على حسن مساعده ولتقدم له خالص احترامه .

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- اطلقت السلطات العسكرية في فلسطين منذ نحو اسبوعين ، عن بيع منشآت معسكر صرفند ، مع الارض ، بواسطة (المعطاء المغتصب) ولم موثرا ان آخر موعد لتقديم المطالبات بهم الخمسين في ٢٥ من هذا الشهر :
- ١ - معسكر صرفند هو المعسكر الرئيسي للقوات الانكليزية في فلسطين . يقع على طريق يافا - القدس بين يافا والرملة ، وفي جوار محطة اللد ، المحطة المركزية للخطوط الحديدية . وهو يشرف على طرق المواصلات الرئيسية بين الشرق والغرب ، والشمال والجنوب .
 - ٢ - يقم المعسكر على ارض مساحتها نحو (٢٧٠٠) دونم ، او (٢٧٠) هكتارا ، اخذت كلها من العرب بموجب قانون الانتزاع . وكان هذا القانون ، عند الاستيلاء عليها يقضي لاصحابها الاصليين بالاولوية في شرائها عند الاستغناء عنها . وقد انفي هذا القانون في عام ١٩٤٣ - والغاء هذا القانون يجب ان لا يؤثر في حق اصحاب الارض الاصليين في استردادها وتسي تفضيلهم على غيرهم عند بيعها .
 - ٣ - المعسكر يقع في المنطقة (أ) التي لا يسمح فيها ببيع الارض لغير عربي فلسطيني بمقتضى قانون الاراضي ، لكن اذا كان مالك الارض غير عربي فلسطيني فللمندوب السامي الحق في اصدار اذن ببيعها لغير عربي فلسطيني . والمالك هنا اجنبي وهو الجيش البريطاني وعلى هذا لا يمكن بيعها لليهود الا باستعمال سلطة خاصة للمندوب السامي .
 - ٤ - يقع هذا المعسكر في منطقة عربية . وهذا يزيد في افضلية العرب واليهود في شرائها .
 - ٥ - ان بيع هذا المعسكر لليهود يعني ان السلطات العسكرية البريطانية تقوم بنقل ملكية الاراضي العربية الى اليهود .
 - ٦ - اعتقال اليهود لهذا المعسكر يؤدي الى خنق مناطق عربية واسعة ، وخصوصا مدينة يافا ، اذ انه يتحكم في الطرق التي تصلها بسائر المناطق العربية الاخرى ، كما يؤدي الى خنق يسائر المنطقة العربية المحيطة بيافا والتي تشمل الرملة واللد وقراها .
 - ٧ - ان اختيار الجيش الانكليزي لهذا الموقع ، منذ الاحتلال ، ليقم فيه معسكره الرئيسي ، وانفساق الاموال الطائلة في منشآته الواسعة يدل على القيمة الموقعية (الاستراتيجية) الخطيرة التي له . ويمكن ان يقال بالاجمال ان الذي يسيطر على صرفند يسيطر على اهم طرق المواصلات في البلاد .
 - ٨ - المعسكر الآن عبارة عن مدينة كاملة مجهزة واذ انجح اليهود في شرائه فسيستكون فيه مهاجرين المهرجين والموجودين الآن في قبرص . وقد استوجب المعسكر ايام الحرب (٦٠٠٠٠) جندي .
 - ٩ - العرب مستعدون لشراء المعسكر . لكنهم يحترضون على ضيق الوقت الشديد . ان بيع وتصليحة مثل هذا المعسكر خلال هذه المدة المتناهية في القصر ، امر غير محقول .

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4379 36

1948

PALESTINE

7 APR 1948

Registry Number E4379/8/31

TELEGRAM FROM Mr, Broadmead No. DAMASCUS 176

Dated 6th April Received in Registry 7th

Sale of Sarafand Camp.

Refer Damascus telegram No, 159 (E3899/8/31) Has now received further memorandum from Azzam Pasha which elaborates arguments presented in his previous memorandum and develops the case for re-sale to the Arabs of all land expropriated from Arab owners, Particular reference is made to Sarafand camp and Kalandiyah airfield. Gives list of requests made in th memorandum.

Last Paper. 4369

References.

See separate minute JB Apr. 10

(Print.)
(How dispatched)
8 telegram p.o.
1 file W.O.
Alantier W.O.
Newling W.O.
Broadmead W.O.
Khan W.O.
April 9

(Action completed) [Signature]
10/11/48

Next Paper. 4416

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Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM DAMASCUS TO FOREIGN OFFICE

4379
APR 1948

Mr. Broadmead
No. 176

D. 4.50 p.m. 6th April 1948
R. 6.59 p.m. 6th April 1948

6th April 1948
Repeated to Jerusalem, Cairo, United Kingdom Delegation
New York,
British Middle East Office Cairo,

Amman }
Bagdad }
Beirut } saving
Jedda }

SECRET

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 176 of
6th April repeated for information to Jerusalem, Cairo,
United Kingdom Delegation New York, British Middle East Office
Cairo and saving to Amman, Bagdad, Beirut and Jedda.

By telegram No. 150 and by despatch No. 47.

Sale of Sarafand camp.

I have now received from Secretary General of the Arab League a further and very lengthy memorandum on this subject which elaborates arguments presented in his previous memorandum and develops the case for re-sale to the Arabs of all land expropriated from Arab owners. Particular reference is made to Sarafand Camp and Helandiyah airfield.

2. After an examination of historical and legal basis of the claim supported by appendices containing extracts of relevant Palestinian law, the memorandum makes the following requests

- (a) stand-still on sale of the camps, airfields etc. on grounds that such action is not in accordance with law,
- (b) sites shall be offered to previous owners,
- (c) transfer of land in Arab zones (as detailed in 1940 land transfer regulation) to Jews not to be permitted,
- (d) Arab compensation to be permitted to negotiate on behalf of former Arab owners,
- (e) until final decision on these matters has been reached no airfields, camps or police stations to be permitted to fall into Jewish hands,
- /(f) any camps, airfields.....



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Anonymous telegram No. 178 to Foreign Office

-2-

ONOP (f) any camps, airfields or police stations sold to Jews to be seized and made available to Arabs.

8421 811A 3 Translation follows by bag.

Foreign Office please pass to Jerusalem as my telegram No. 57 immediate and to United Kingdom Delegation New York as my telegram No. 11.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York]

[Copies sent to Telegraph Section, Colonial Office for transmission to Jerusalem].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat]

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70-8 Palestine EASTERN E4416/G 36

E 4416/8/31/G
 Mr. T. H. Martin,
 Colonial Office,
 to Mr. Burrows.
 April 6th.
 Recd. April 8th.

Surrender of the Palestine Mandate:
 Conversation with Ted Mackey, Editor
 of the New York Post

Last Paper
 E4369

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)
 Original
 returned to CO
 May 30, 1948

(Action completed) (Index)

Next Paper

(Minutes)

This minute is of some interest, as representing a band of opinion which is likely to grow stronger in the next few weeks. Mr. Lewis Jones put to me yesterday the view that, whereas it is from the point of view of the inhabitants of Palestine it would probably be best to let a settlement take place there and give a year for the working out of the details of a settlement in the Middle East. His own opinion was not very definite but he suggested that the advantages of an Anglo-American decision on the future government of Palestine, jointly imposed, are worth considering.

I said that at first sight I saw two objections to this:

(1) even if Anglo-American policy was broadly favourable to the Arabs, certain aspects of it would almost certainly have an injurious effect on relations between the West States and the Eastern Powers;

(2) the new government would still be subject

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BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICES - 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA - NEW YORK 20, N.Y.

Date: March 29, 1948.

Subject: LUNCH WITH TED THACKREY

CONFIDENTIAL Report No. 48

To: The Controller

From: Major C.B. Ormerod

I lunched with Ted Thackrey, Co-Publisher and Editor of the New York Post, on Friday, March 26th. We met in his sumptuous offices at the New York Post and later adjourned to the Down-Town Athletic Club where we talked for 2½ hours, mainly on Palestine.

2. Early in our talk I chided him, not so much for his general attitude towards British policy in Palestine - after all the U.S. is still a free country and possesses, to a remarkable degree, the somewhat mixed blessing of free speech - but because of some of his totally unwarranted and untrue statements about Britain, typical of which was a paragraph from to-day's editorial, signed by him, that said:

".... the President's weasling statement is certain to be merely a preliminary to asking the good kind British to retain their overlordship in Palestine "temporarily". They have been there, temporarily, for all the years since 1919 ... Without having taken a single effective step to discharge the mandate which placed them there to help found a national homeland for Jews".

I asked if he thought the creation of a home for three quarters of a million Jews was, or was not, an effective step and he immediately accepted my correction and apologized unreservedly, and very charmingly, saying that he had no right whatsoever to say such a thing which he readily admitted was entirely incorrect. He went on to say that in his emotional upset over Palestine, it is easy for his pen - or typewriter - to run away with him and to write things that are good debating points but, unfortunately, sometimes divorced from the truth. I went back to this point just before we parted and said "Look, Ted, kick us in the teeth as much as you want, if you think you are entitled to do so, (which I very much doubt) but for God's sake, and also for the sake of accuracy, give us credit for the many good things we have done for the Jews in Palestine - and elsewhere". He promised to do so. He explained that, having been born in Britain, his present attacks on the country of his birth were extremely distasteful, but that he felt so passionately on the subject of Palestine that his natural aversion had been overcome by his emotionalism. (I suspect that the over-riding factor is not Ted Thackrey's personal emotions but his wife, Dorothy, nee Kohn, to say nothing of the increased circulation and advertising success of the New York Post which, after years in the red, is now well in the black, largely because of a great increase in Jewish advertising revenues.)

3. He asked if Britain is really determined to hand over the mandate on May 15th and to withdraw all troops by August 1st. "Irrevocably determined" I replied, and expanded on the reasons therefor with particular emphasis on the utter "Fed-upness" of the British people over having their boys shot in the back and their country slandered.

4. I told him, in order to gain his confidence (we are old friends, anyway) about the talks I arranged in New York during the Foreign Ministers' Conference in November and December 1946 between Secretary of State Ernest Borah and Rabbi Silver. In strict confidence, I gave him the broad gist of what transpired then, and later, and added that, in my opinion, if Silver had played the game at Beale the Jews would in all probability have attended the London Conference

/and subsequent

and subsequent history might well have been written in happier vein. I said this particularly to try and prove to Ted Thackrey that Mr. Bevin is not purely obstructionist and did his damndest, even under the appalling pressure of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, to effect a rapprochement between the British Government and the Zionists. Thackrey was immensely interested and, I believe, impressed.

5. Encouraged by his reception of this little bit of inside history, I also told him a little about Mr. Bevin's visit to the White House and how President Truman offered full economic support to Britain in Palestine. I also made the point - a telling one, I think - that Mr. Bevin might well have been somewhat reluctant to see President Truman (which indeed he was) in view of the latter's repeated political interference whenever the Secretary of State got within measurable distance of a settlement. I did all this to show how anxious Mr. Bevin has been all along to try and settle this tragic problem. I am positive my stories had some effect upon Ted Thackrey.

6. I also told Thackrey of the incessant efforts of Lord Inverchapel to effect a reconciliation between the Silver group and H.M.G.

7. Thackrey, in return, told me a little about his own recent and much-publicized visit to the White House. His comment on the now famous Drew Pearson story about his visit was that neither Pearson nor the President gave the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. When Mr. Truman (as an ex-harbinger) said his version of the interview as given to the press was made of "woolwool", his ideas of woolwool must be very peculiar and might perhaps account for his past marked lack of business success.

8. We discussed at considerable length the present Russian war-scare, particularly its over-all effect on Palestine. We agreed that the failure of the Big Five to make peace has made it much more difficult for the United Nations attempts to keep the peace, which was, after all, the purpose for which it was created. (Ted Thackrey and I were both present at the U.N. organizational Conference in San Francisco). We also agreed that the repeated by-passing of the U.N., mainly because of Russian intransigence, has been a major post-war disaster. But above all Ted Thackrey fears that the U.S. Administration, by its incredible backing and filling, has placed Russia in the possible position of taking direct action in Palestine, in order to support the U.N.'s partition decision if the U.S. and the U.N. further procrastinate. Russia could, with some legitimacy, now say that as the Security Council refuses to implement partition, Soviet Russia will unilaterally carry out the General Assembly's mandate. "What tragic irony", said Thackrey, "to place Russia, instead of the U.S., in a position to act as the moral guardian of the United Nations! At all costs", Thackrey added, "we must rehabilitate the United Nations and restore its international prestige". We went on to discuss the similarity of the international situation to-day with the national situation in America when Lincoln fought the Civil War on the basis of the Maintenance of the Union. That is the basis upon which World War III should be fought, if we have to fight one, an international civil war fought for the maintenance of the union of the United Nations - and not as a war for power and world domination.

9. Thackrey, in discussing the cold-war, told me that, in his opinion, Secretary Forrestal, and many others in "top places", have already decided that sooner or later war is inevitable. In that event, many feel it should be fought sooner rather than later as time is on Russia's side. (A very interesting article on this subject appears in the March 29th issue of LIFE). I gathered, although Thackrey did not specifically say so, that Bob Lovett shares Forrestal's opinion - Secretary of State Marshall does not. /Incidentally, Ted is no great admirer of Marshall and he cordially detests and despises President Truman who he has publicly said should be impeached. Thackrey would like Eisenhower to get the Democratic nomination and become President. Therefore, in the opinion of Thackrey, the U.S. defence chiefs tend to look at Palestine not as a purely Middle-Eastern problem, nor on the basis of oil or Zionism, but within the larger framework of a possible - and probable - war with Russia. This is Bob Lovett's attitude, in which he has the full support of Forrestal, and these two, according to Thackrey, are at present determining U.S. Palestine policy. If war comes, Palestine will cease to exist as a major

problem and its gray shade will immediately be merged into the black or white (or Red) of the opposing great-power blocs. In that event the Palestine problem will be solved, probably to the great discomfiture of all concerned, since the current American policy which is based upon power-politics and not at all upon the morality or otherwise of the Zionist cause.

10. There is a possible solution, acceptable to Thackrey. Here it is:

(a) Britain and the U.S. should both put out of mind all the sordid history of the past and work out in secret a solution acceptable to both governments. (In the case of America, Palestine must become a non-partisan political issue).

(b) This solution should include a Zionist State. The rest of Palestine should be divided up amongst the adjacent Arab States.

(c) A tremendous Middle-Eastern economic development plan should be announced, to be financed by American and any other nations capable of contributing thereto. This economic development plan should include a Jordan River T.V.A. and the irrigation of the Mesopotamia area.

(d) Immediate passage of the Stratton Bill, and prior agreement with all other nations to accept D.P.s including Jews, on a pro-rata or other mutually agreeable basis.

(e) The Arab League and the Jewish Agency should be quietly informed that an Anglo-American agreement has been reached and told to co-operate or else

(f) This agreed plan, based largely on the agreement originally reached by the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry in 1946, should be submitted to the United Nations (which would welcome it with open arms).

(g) A temporary U.N. Trusteeship may be necessary but it must be purely temporary. This would circumvent the need for Russian troops. If the Russians don't like it they are no more likely to go to war over this particular issue than any other. If they are determined to go to war anyway, they might just as well do it over Palestine as over anything else.

(h) Enforcement by British and American troops acting on behalf of the U.N.

Ted Thackrey said he would welcome any comments from H.M.G. on this policy which he intends to advocate personally in Washington.

11. We parted with mutual expressions of friendship, and a warm invitation from Ted Thackrey for me to spend a weekend at their house on Long Island, when we would be able to continue our discussion.

(Signed) G.B. GEMERLO

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1948

PALESTINE

E 4519

12 APR 1948

Registry Number E4519/8/31

TELEGRAM FROM Sir Ronald Campbell CAIRO

No. 439

Dated 8th April 12th "

Last Paper.

1168

References.

(Print)

(How disposed)

Mr. Mathieson Co. from Mr. Beith 12 April 1948

(Action completed)

Next Paper.

E 4531

Future of Foreign Consular functions in Palestine.

Has had enquiries from foreign colleagues regarding continuation of foreign consular functions in Palestine on termination of the Mandate. Foreign consuls presumably work at present on legal basis of exequatur granted by Government of Palestine. It has been argued that His Majesty's Government have therefore a responsibility towards consuls at present there and some responsibility for trying to ensure that recognition at present granted is formally passed on to Successor authority.

Minutes

Mr Evans Consular Dept. Treaty Dept. for obs

We shall have to consult the Co. before replying but I doubt whether they will have anything useful to say. This seems to be a legal point.

J. L. Beith Apr. 15

It will be for us to consider in the future treatment of Palestine to decide on any questions of consular representation in Palestine after the termination of the mandate. This cannot, I think, be any question of the present Government of Palestine "formally passing on" recognition to the successor authority.

James A. C. Gutteridge (GUTTERIDGE)

Amaller for UN. Assembly perhaps United Nations (Political) Dept. Can offer obs. 16/10

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Assuming that there will be a constituted authority to take over on the termination of the mandate, it is more than probable that they will be only too happy to continue the recognition of existing foreign consular appointments at least informally. The successor authority will also be responsible for their well-being, but they will be in a better position to carry out this responsibility if they know who the recognized consular officers are, and in this small matter the relieving Palestine authorities could render their successors a real service by having a list of recognized consular officers available when they hand over responsibility. There is no question of any continuing responsibility on the part of them after the transfer of authority.

Letter to Co.
10 April 1948

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FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

(C 4512/31)

19th April, 1948.

My dear Sir,

You will have seen a copy of Cairo Telegram no. 439 of April 17th about the continuance of foreign consular functions in Palestine on the termination of the mandate but I attach a copy for ease of reference.

It will of course be a matter for whatever successor authority is established in Palestine to grant fresh exequaturs to foreign consuls and it does not appear that we are entitled to transfer or extend the exequaturs which the Government of Palestine have granted. In a non-controversial matter of this kind it would clearly be a helpful act on our part to notify the successor authority of the position of foreign consuls and it would presumably be most convenient to do this at the United Nations. Accordingly I suggest, if you agree, that you might telegraph the consuls and ask the High Commissioner to notify the position to the relevant foreign consuls to the United Nations Council through the United Nations Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Foreign Office, London, W.1.

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